

CATS Newsletter

The Capital Area
Timex/Sinclair Users Group

Vol. 11 No. 12
March 1994



Impossible Dream ?

by George Rey

We are in a depression ("The Contained Depression of the 1990's by Levy). Make no mistake about it. It started in 82 when interest rates peaked, became painful in 90 and may run to the year 2000. I have not seen so much crime and so many lost homeless since the 30's.

The good news is that a depression is not the end of the world, besides we are four times richer (fatter) now than in the 30's. For me a depression is a massive restructuring of a Nation's economic affairs. It is caused by the unbridled greed of enterprises handling money irresponsibly. This leads to speculative bubbles which must be deflated.

The hopeful news is that Greenspan (GS) is at the helm of the Fed now carrying out a fiscal plan he helped produce when Chairman of the Social Security (SS) Commission overhaul in 1983-84. The plan like any plan is a target for the future and is not an absolute

The Table below is a capsule condensation of that plan.

Yr	Nom	GNP	Inc	Fed	Int	Fed	SS
19	GNP	%In	%GNP	Defi	Rate	Debt	Assets
85	4015	5.4	13.9	-225	10.8	1950	42
90	5463	5.0	14.1	-297	8.3	3397	226
93	6456	6.7	14.1	-300	7.6	4433	446
95	7309	6.4	14.1	-175	6.9	4793	637
00	9911	5.9	14.1	-150	6.0	5634	1340
05	13326	6.1	14.1	-74	6.0	6182	2463
07	14973	6.0	14.1	-21	6.0	6253	3064
10	17833	6.0	14.1	+92	6.0	6100	4092
15	23417	5.6	14.1	+385	6.0	4830	6082
20	30519	5.4	14.1	+879	6.0	1520	7976

certainty. It combines the SS trust and Federal budgets to finance our way back to health. That is why he got to be Chairman of the Fed later.

The Fed is handling the situation as well as can be expected - by using the combined resources of the Government and SS as the "Bank of Last Resort" to balance our economic accounts to maintain economic (Money) stability. That's a "High-Wire Act" and my concern is that all that Megabyte Money, outside of USA control, may cut the wire.

The table shows a 35 year Federal financial plan, 1985-2020, in column 1, (C 1). In billions of dollars. C 2 assumes nominal projected GNP's over the years, while C 3 assumes the nominal growth % per year of the GNP. C 4 is the % GNP expected as Federal income - and is

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A Word from the Editor:

Well, it looks like CATS joins the rest of the Washington area in suffering from winter's onslaughts. Let us hope that by the time you read this it is all history.

If you are looking for a wider variety of material in the newsletter, SEND IT IN! The newsletter is a reflection of the member's interests. Original material or clippings (with attribution and a sentence or two of introduction) are fine.

Submissions will be accepted in ANY form - Internet mail, US mail, BBS messages, disks, tapes, stringy floppies, etc.

**March Presentation:
Duane Parker on MODEMs**

THE FUTURE LIES BEHIND !

Using a computer to create a
17th. Century backstaff.

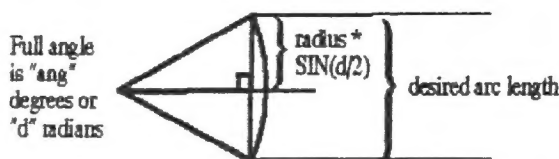
Addendum: The Computer part by Mark Fisher.

I sent my backstaff article to another newsletter, and its editor, George Steele, has informed me that I left something out - namely exactly what I did on my computer to decide how to calibrate the arcs of the backstaff. To remedy the oversight (considering that this IS a computer group, I submit the following:

First of all, the standard way to calibrate and engrave instruments is to use a machine, based on a screw thread, to correctly space the desired marks onto the instrument. I couldn't do this, but I had a computer!

I needed to know the straight line distance across an arc, the size of the arc determined by the angle at its base. I had three constraints in writing the program:

1.) The other problem was introduced by the helpful designer of the computer. Angles within the computer are denoted in *radians*, an alternate method of describing angles (a circle is divided into 3.1416 radians rather than 360 degrees). To convert the massive decimal fractions to a number I could use required line 50 in the program.



2.) Trigonometry gives a value for the size of the side of a right triangle with the *sine*, and what I wanted was the size of the base of an isosceles triangle. However, one can think of the isosceles triangle as two right triangles back to back, each with 1/2 the included angle. The result appears where I multiply ("*" in computerese) the sine of 1/2 the original angle by 2 in line 60.

3.) The sine value only tells us the size of the angle if the radius is one unit. However, a triangle with a radius of two units would have twice the distance, etc., so I also multiply the sine in line 60 by the radius of the arc I want to calibrate.

On running this program, I generated a table of dimensions, each representing a distance that "included" the angle I wanted to mark. In order to avoid cumulative errors, I didn't just find out how far to measure for one degree, for example, and move my ruler along the arc marking degrees. Rather I measured successive increments from the base line,

cross checking my measurements between graduations.

BASIC Calibration program

```
10 REM graduating scale program
20 INPUT "ENTER radius of arc in
   decimal inches ";radius
30 INPUT "ENTER step value in
   decimal degrees ";Stp
40 For ang=0 to 65 step Stp
50   d=ang/57.29578: REM converts
   values in degrees to radians
   for the computer
60 PRINT ang, USING "####.####";
   radius*SIN(d/2)*2: REM (This
   is the guts of the program,
   generating the distance along
   the chord between the starting
   point and the current value of
   "ang")
70 PAUSE
80 NEXT ang
90 END
```

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targeted at 14.1 % max. In C 5 the Federal deficit in billions is projected. C 6 is the expected long term interest rates of US bonds. The next to last column, C 7, is the accumulating total Federal debt which is planned to peak in 2007. Lastly, the accumulating SS trust fund is where the source of funds are that help fuel such horrendous debt. I hope GS meets the targets he set forth.

For the astute, monitor the planned targets. If negative deviations occur, hide. But I don't know where. As for all the political rhetoric from Reagan to whomever to the year 2007 or thereabouts, forget it, their hands are tied to the plan. Why? Because its not what puppets we vote into kingship that matters but who controls the money supply.

Is the plan an Impossible Dream? I am not an economist, thank God, but I can add and think. I have yet to read Mr. Levy's book, but if GS's plan does not contain the depression we are in say your prayers. But TIME will tell if the plan works. In any event I am not about to let anyone, including my country, to enslave me.

Next time, Freedom, what it is and isn't.

Memorial Service for Irma Quintero

Members George Rey and Charles (Hank) Dickson attended a memorial service for **Alejandrina Irma Quintero** at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Silver Spring Saturday, January 29, 1994.

Irma was--since the early 1950's--the wife of **Mannie Quintero**, former CATS president.

A memorial Mass was conducted in the large Silver Spring church, filled to capacity. Eulogies were given by **Irma's** daughters--**Lisa Martin** and **Pat Collins** and family friend **Mirt Bender**.

Her four brothers and four sisters, among others, came to the service from many places:

Rio de Janiero
California
Cohabama, Bolivia
Arizona
Colorado
Texas
Virginia
Florida
New York

After memorial services in Pound Ridge, NY and Washington, DC, there will be one more ceremony for **Irma** this spring at Santa Cruz--in her native Bolivia--where her remains will come to rest in the family mausoleum.

Irma and **Mannie** traveled all around the world while **Mannie** was engaged in doing coast and geodetic survey work for the US government. Both left countless friends everywhere they went.

As one of the speakers commented, "We shall forever lament the loss of **Irmita**, her shining smile...her endearing and caring acts of love...and most of all her '*joie de vivre*'."

Our sincerest condolences to **Mannie Quintero** during this time of extreme loss.

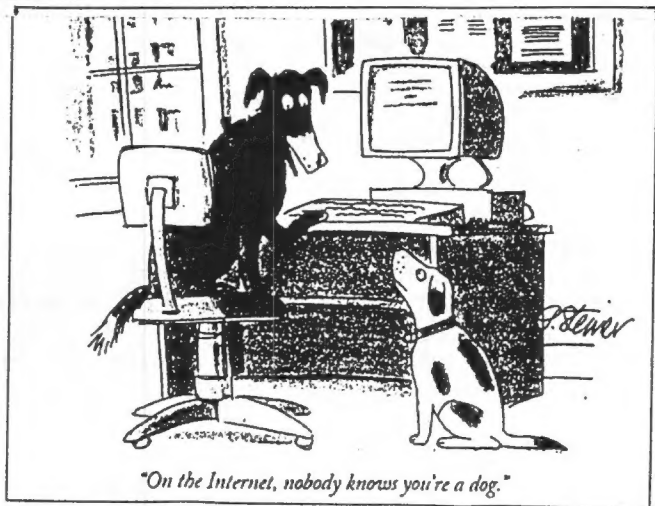
Weather Sidetracks CATS

For the second time in twelve months, bitter winter weather caused the scheduled (and pre-paid) CATS meeting to go up in smoke at the New Carrollton public library.

The 100-year storm of March 12-14, 1993 was bad enough, when all CATS-related activity ceased because not enough hardy souls were willing to venture out. According to the conventional wisdom, one such soul did actually trek through that storm to remind library personnel that there was indeed business to be done!

The thirteenth or fifteenth ice/rain/snow assault this season on Metropolitan Washington that occurred February 9-11 caused general disruption of the parking areas around the New Carrollton library. Nobody could go up or down or up or about. Adding to the general joy of the environment was the construction work going on to lay a natural gas pipeline across the parking lot to the library building. Although the library was closed during storm central, one CATS stalwart allegedly banged on the back door/employees entrance long enough get a rise from the employees huddled within. The response was, "Go away!!"

As a result, the discussion of "*Intermediate Modems*" by **Duane Parker** has been rescheduled for the March 12 meeting. Unless a hurricane arrives.



Monthly meetings are held from 12:00 M to 4:30 PM on the second Saturday of each month at the New Carrollton Library.

Meetings

(301) 588-0579 BBS
(301) 589-7407

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer
Newsletter Editor
Barry Washington
Mark Fisher

Officers:

THE CAPITAL AREA TIMEX/
SINCLAIR USERS GROUP is a not-for-profit group serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in the Timex/Sinclair family of computers.

Newsletter

CATS BBS: (301) 588-0579, 8-N-1.
300/1200/2400 baud. Message base and files for members, 24 hours a day, no time limits.

TimeX SIG on CompuServe: Wednesday night 10:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (GO CLUB)

Networks

User Group memberships cost \$15.00 per year, are good for 12 months and include all privileges (access to software libraries, group buys, etc.). A newsletter-only subscription is available for persons living outside the Washington metropolitan area and is \$12.00 per year.

CATS Newsletter
P.O. Box 11017
Takoma Park, MD 20913

FIRST CLASS MAIL



The next meeting of CATS will be held on: March 12, 1994
12:00 M Hardware workshop
2:00 PM General meeting

At: New Carrollton Public Library

If you are not a member of CATS, this is the only issue you will receive.